

**441—200.9(600) International adoptions.**

**200.9(1) Procedures.** International adoptions involving child-placing agencies located outside Iowa shall follow the procedures outlined in the interstate compact on the placement of children, Iowa Code section 238.33. The compact is only applicable in instances when the child is placed through a child-placing agency. When a child is placed by an entity other than a child-placing agency, a child shall only be placed after the department has been furnished a preplacement assessment and adoptive home study as required by Iowa Code section 600.8; legal documents from the child's country of origin which demonstrate the child is legally available for adoption; and all available medical, mental health, social, and background information regarding the child.

**200.9(2) Services provided and fees.** The family wishing approval for placement of a child from a country other than the United States into their home for the purpose of adoption shall be assessed a fee of \$75 regardless of their income for service provided by the department. The fee shall accompany the request for service. Checks shall be made to the department of human services.

The services shall include: reviewing and processing the family's adoptive home study; reviewing the child's background and legal information and birth verification to ensure that both are in compliance with requirements in Iowa Code chapter 600; submitting documents to Immigration and Naturalization Services approving the Iowa family for adoptive placement of a child; and submitting a certification letter to the attorney, agency, or family, after the child has resided with the adoptive family 180 days, and the family has had postplacement supervision by an agency or certified adoption investigator. The department's certification letter shall indicate that the family has met the requirements in the Iowa Code and that there are no impediments to finalizing the adoption.